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An Account of a Trigonometrical Survey of Mayo, one of the Maritime Counties of Ireland. By William Bald, Civil Engineer, Member of the Geological Society, London, and M. R. I. A.

Read April 30th, 1821.

IN the year 1809 I was employed by the Grand Jury of Mayo to make a map and survey of their county, which was to be drawn and laid down from a scale of three inches to the Irish mile. The whole of the summer of 1809 was occupied in constructing a geometrical map of the environs of Castlebar, and in obtaining a knowledge of the face of the country, with a view to the planning of the triangles, and the measurement of a base as the foundation of the general geometrical survey and map. After a diligent search, no plain could be found that would admit of a base of more than two miles in length, except by going through bog. One of these was adopted, and extended to thirty-one thousand nine hundred feet, which was measured three times carefully over with a fifty feet chain, using iron pins. I have drawn out a separate diagram of the triangles calculated from this base as a comparison with the results obtained from more exact data. I ordered Mr. Edward Troughton, of London, to make a chain of one hundred feet in length, which might be applied to a flat surface of soil, not having the means of resorting to the more exact method of using coffer in measuring the bases, and he accordingly sent me one, consisting of twenty links, each five feet long, of a simple but accurate construction. An extract from

Mr. Troughton's letter may not be uninteresting.—“ The terminating lines of the iron chain were set off from the British brass standard, at the temperature of 65°. of Farenheit's thermometer, this is 10°. above the temperate point ; the correction for this, according to the expansion of iron with heat is .07704 of an inch upon the whole length, and those will be data for reducing that length for any other temperature ; the chain will, I think, require three people to carry it forward, for it should not be dragged on the ground : care must be taken in folding it : in the most accurate operations the pieces with sliding lines should be used for registering the end of the chain. In other cases the arrows may be sufficient, being more expeditious. As the accuracy of the chain is extreme, I leave you to judge if it may not supersede the standard which you ordered of me.”—To convince myself of the accuracy and power of this instrument, I measured on the lake of Castlebar, when frozen, a distance of near two miles, and by repeating the measurement it turned out, after making the necessary allowances for temperature, to come within one inch : a result I scarcely expected, and which proved its excellence for the purposes intended. This trial was made by lines of coincidences, using the sliding pieces of brass for registering correctly the length of each chain, as the surface of the ice was perfectly smooth. It was afterwards proved in several measurements on firm sands, dry at low water, and on level meadow-land, not to differ more than two inches in two miles. From the circumstance before stated, that Mayo afforded no flats, on sufficiently favourable ground, of more than two miles in length, I determined on having a series of short and accurate bases, in preference to long ones, which might be doubtful, from having been measured over an irregular surface.

The following were the bases measured :

- | | Feet |
|---|----------|
| 1. Base on the Moy plain flat meadow, subject to flood, in the barony of Gallen | } 6800 |
| 2. Base on the plain at the head of Lough Carra, in the barony of Carra, meadow and bottom | } 6330 |
| 3. Base on the sands of Killala, in the barony of Tyrawley | } 9500 |
| 4. Base on the sands between the island of Annagh and Inishbegit, in the half barony of Erris | } 9971.9 |
| 5. Base on the sands of Bertragh, barony of Murrisk | 4545 |
| 6. Base in the barony of Costello, along a flat bog road | 8600 |
| 7. Base over the ice, when the lake of Castlebar was frozen in the Barony of Carra, 11097.4 feet, and which was rendered of no use, as some idle person had destroyed the mark, which terminated the length of the base. I would recommend in all similar operations double marks within a few feet of each extremity. The bases were all measured twice. In repeating the measurements with Mr. Troughton's chain, I always observed that the lengths measured during the warm part of the day were minus when compared with the same lengths taken in the evening, when the cold had commenced. The thermometers always afforded an accurate correction. All the bases, with the exception of the one over the ice, were measured during the warm part of the summer; the corrections were small. In measuring over the ice of Castlebar lake in January 1814, Farenheit's thermometer stood at a mean of 29°; the temperature, when the chain had its terminating lines laid off from the British brass standard in the Tower of London, was 65°. of Farenheit's thermometer; this is a difference of 36°, and using the data given by Mr. Troughton, we shall have the following results; | |

		Feet
Length of base measured on the ice		11,100
$36 \times 007704 \times 111 = 30,785184 =$		<u>2,56543</u>
	12	Correct length . 11097.43457

Base measured on the Moy plain.

First measurement		6800.
Mean of the thermometer 59° standard 65° difference 6° .		
$6 \times 007704 \times 68 = .046224 = 3.143232 =$		<u>.261936</u>
	12	Correct length 6799.738064

Second measurement		6800.375
Mean of the thermometer 51°		
Standard 65° difference 14°		
$14 \times 68 \times 007704 = 7,334208 =$		<u>611184</u>
	12	Correct length . 6799.763816

Base measured on the sands in the half barony of Erris.

First measurement		9971.5
Mean of the thermometers 72° standard 65° difference 7°		
$007704 \times 7 \times 9971.5 = 53771608 =$		<u>.448096</u>
	12	Correct length . 9971.948096

Second measurement		9971.35
Mean temperature 73° Standard 65° difference 8°		
$007704 \times 8 \times 9971. = 614532672 =$		<u>.512110</u>
	12	Correct length 9971.862110

I had every reason to be satisfied with the result of the measurements obtained by the chain. I had ordered Mr. Troughton to make a theodolite, two feet diameter, although not for the express purpose of this survey, yet I had it in contemplation to observe with it the large triangles. Mr. Troughton had been much engaged, and after waiting a considerable time, I despaired of receiving the instrument. The Grand Jury were anxious for the progress of the Survey, when I resolved upon commencing the triangulation with a theodolite seven inches diameter, which I had intended to use, in combination with the large one, and which gave, in observing the three angles of a triangle, a difference of not more than one minute, and in many instances to thirty seconds. I was not able to observe all the angles of each triangle, a proceeding which ought to be strictly attended to in all trigonometrical operations; and in the planning of triangles to have them as nearly equilateral as possible. The observations from my instrument were not sufficiently minute to warrant any spherical correction for the triangles, which I greatly regret; but, having so many bases, I possessed the means of verification on all sides, and, as will be seen by the map of triangles, was seldom doubtful of more than twenty-five feet. Though I am well aware that the results of this survey cannot by any means be compared to the great operations commenced in England by General Roy, and carried on by Colonel Mudge and Major Colby under the Board of Ordnance, or to those of France under Delambre, Mechain, Arago, and Biot, I am yet inclined to think they may be made useful in correcting our maps of Ireland, and that a collection even of similar observations would not only be serviceable in improving the geography of this kingdom, but is much wanted for the safety of the navigator. As a proof of this, I here subjoin a few observa-

tions for determining the latitude of Castlebar steeple ; also a table of latitude obtained from the various maps and charts published of Ireland, by which it will appear that almost every headland requires to be verified and corrected.

Observations taken by a ten inch Sextant at Castlebar Steeple.

1823.	☉ Meridian Altitude.	Latitude.
January 6	15.11.45	53.49.35,9
18	15.34.40	53.49.59,9
19	15.46.45	53.49. 8,9
21	16.12.39	53.49.51,4
24	16.53.39	53.50. 1,2
Feb. 5	20. 8.44	53.49.53,4
15	23.21.54	53.50. 9,2
16	23.42.19	53.49.49,
28	28.03.15	53.50. 3,6
March 9	31.30.15	53.50.35,9
April 11	44.18.48	53.50. 0,7
May 1	51. 6.14	53.49. 0,2
		53.49.50 mean.

Table of Latitude from Maps and Charts of Ireland.

	Mc. Kenzie's Charts.	Taylor's Map.	Arrowsmith's.	Beaufort's.	Ballast Office Map.	Huddart's Chart.
Shark Head	53.32.30	53.29.30	53.40. 8	53.20. 0	53.35.40	53.39.30
Achill Head.....	53.59. 0	53.48.20	54. 5. 0	53.58. 0	53.55. 0	54. 2. 0
Erris Head	54.18.30	54.12.20	54.27.20	54.18.20	54.18. 0	54.23.20
Killala	54.11. 0	54. 6. 0	54.17. 0	54.12.20	54.13. 0	54.16.30
Castlebar .....	...	53.42.15	53.54. 0	53.50. 0	53.51. 0	...
Clare Island Light-house.....	53.51.30	53.41.50	53.54. 0	53.49.30	53.49.30	53.53.30
(1) Inishtrahul Light-house	55.24.30	55.21. 0	55.23. 0	55.23.40	55.26. 0	55.27.30
Copeland do.....	54.37.30	54.44. 0	54.42.30	54.40.30	54.52.30	54.41. 0
Arranmore do. Donegal	54.59.30	54.55.30	54.58.30	55. 1.30	55. 0. 0	55. 1.40
Fannet Light-house, Loughswilly ..	55.14. 0	55.12. 0	55.15. 0	55.16.40	55.17.30	55.17. 2
Pigeon house do. Dublin Bay .....	...	53.21. 0	53.21.40	53.21. 0	53.31. 0	53.21. 0
Arran do. Galway Bay.....	53. 4.40	52.57. 0	53. 7. 0	53. 6. 0	53. 6. 0	53.10.30
Wicklow Head Light-house.....	...	52.58. 0	52.58. 0	52.58.30	53. 0.30	52.58.30
(2) Loop Head do.....	52.22.10	52.20. 0	52.37. 0	52.31. 0	52.32. 0	52.29. 0
(3) Kerry Head.....	52.16. 0	52.12. 0	52.29.30	52.23. 0	52.22. 0	52.21. 0
(4) Cape Clear Light-house	51.21. 0	51. 9.20	51.19.20	51.19.30	51.23. 0	51.21.20
(5) Kinsale do.	51.35. 0	51.22. 0	51.34.40	51.37. 0	51.36.20	51.36. 0
(6) Hook Light-house, Waterford	52 5.20	52. 1. 0	52. 5.40	52. 6. 0	52.13.30	52. 9.20
(7) Tusker do.....	52.11.20	52. 4. 0	52.12.30	52.13. 0	52.18. 0	52.12.30
Smalls Light-house, by Survey of England 51°43'.18"	not laid down,	not laid down,	not laid down,	51.49. 0	52. 0. 0	51.43. 0
Bengore Head	55.12. 0	55.13.30	55.15.20	55.15.30	55.19. 0	55.16. 0
Brandon Head.....	52.10.30	52. 5. 0	52.22. 0	52.17. 0	52.16.30	52.15. 0
(8) Cork .....	...	51.42. 0	51.53.50	51.54. 0	51.54. 0	...
Dursey Island, deduced from Cape Clear.....	51.29.30	...	...	...	...	...
Dursey Island, deduced from Kin- sale	51.30. 0	...	...	...	...	51.32. 0
(9) Tory Island, westhead.....	55.13.30	...	...	...	...	55.16.40
Martin Head	55.21. 0	...	...	...	...	55.24.30
Centre of Tory Island, Longitude west from Greenwich .....	...	...	...	8. 6. 0	8. 1. 0	8.12. 0

- (1) Inishtrahul, by Mr. Lamont's Observations 55°26'.28". See Purdy's Memoir descriptive of the Chart of the Atlantic, 1817.
- (2) Loop Head, by Captain Shortland 52°37'.0". Do. do. Do. do. In Huddart's large Sheet Chart of the Shannon it is mentioned by Mc. Kenzie Latitude 52°24'.0". by Captain Shortland 52°37'.0". mean 52°31'.0". the latitude obtained by me from Mc. Kenzie's Chart is 52°22'.10". and the Light House laid down in Huddart's Chart is 52°29'.0".
- (3) Kerry Head, by Captain Shortland 52°30'.0". Memoir Atlantic.
- (4) Cape Clear, by Admiral Knight 51°25'.0", by Captain John Udney 51°28'.22", by Captain John Wilson 51°27'.45". The two last were commanders from the River Clyde. Mean result of varying authorities 51°26'.0". Memoir Atlantic.
- (5) Kinsale Light House by Huddart's Chart of 1812, 51°31'.0".
- (6) Hook do. do. do. do. of 1812, 52°5'.0".
- (7) Tusker do. do. by Mc. Kenzie's Chart 52°11'.0". deduced from Cape Clear. If the sheets were correctly joined the result would be 52°12'.0".
- (8) Cork, by Dr. Longfield 51°53'.54".
- (9) Tory Island west head, from the chart of the West Coast, by Mc. Kenzie 55°12'.0".

Barometrical and trigonometrical height of the mountains and hills in Mayo.

	Feet over the Sea	
	Barometrically.	Trigonometrically.
CROAH PATRICK, or the Reek.		
Mean of three Observations from sands of Bertra }	...	2509
Two from Carramore . . . . .	...	2536
Do. from Corvockbrack . . . . .	...	2530
Do. from Oughty . . . . .	...	2514
Two from Runa . . . . .	...	2528
From Myles' Monument, Clare Island .	...	2556
		15173
		2528 mean
Mean of two by the Barometer . . .	2532	
FURMNAGAR.		
From the Reek . . . . .	...	2562
By the Barometer	2569	
KNOCK-NA-MUITREA.		
From the Reek . . . . .	...	2729
Do. do. . . . .	...	2737
Do. Myles' Monument . . . . .	...	2724
Do. Carramore . . . . .	...	2711
CORVOCKBRACK.		
From Runa, mean of two . . . . .	...	1281
Do. Carramore . . . . .	...	1281
By the Barometer	1254	
OUGHTY.		
By the Barometer	1092	
From Corvock . . . . .	...	1097
AULMORE-HILL.		
From Runa . . . . .	...	922
Do. Carramore . . . . .	...	936
Do. Corvockbrack . . . . .	...	919
INISHTURK (Tower-hill).		
Mean of four . . . . .	...	591
Cuscamecurragh . . . . .	...	2412
NEPHIN.		
From Kilalla Bay . . . . .	...	2658
Do. Cruoghmore . . . . .	...	2621
Do. Do. . . . .	...	2635
From the Puntoon by the Sextant . . .	...	2633
		2639 mean.

Barometrical and trigonometrical heights of the mountains and hills in Mayo.

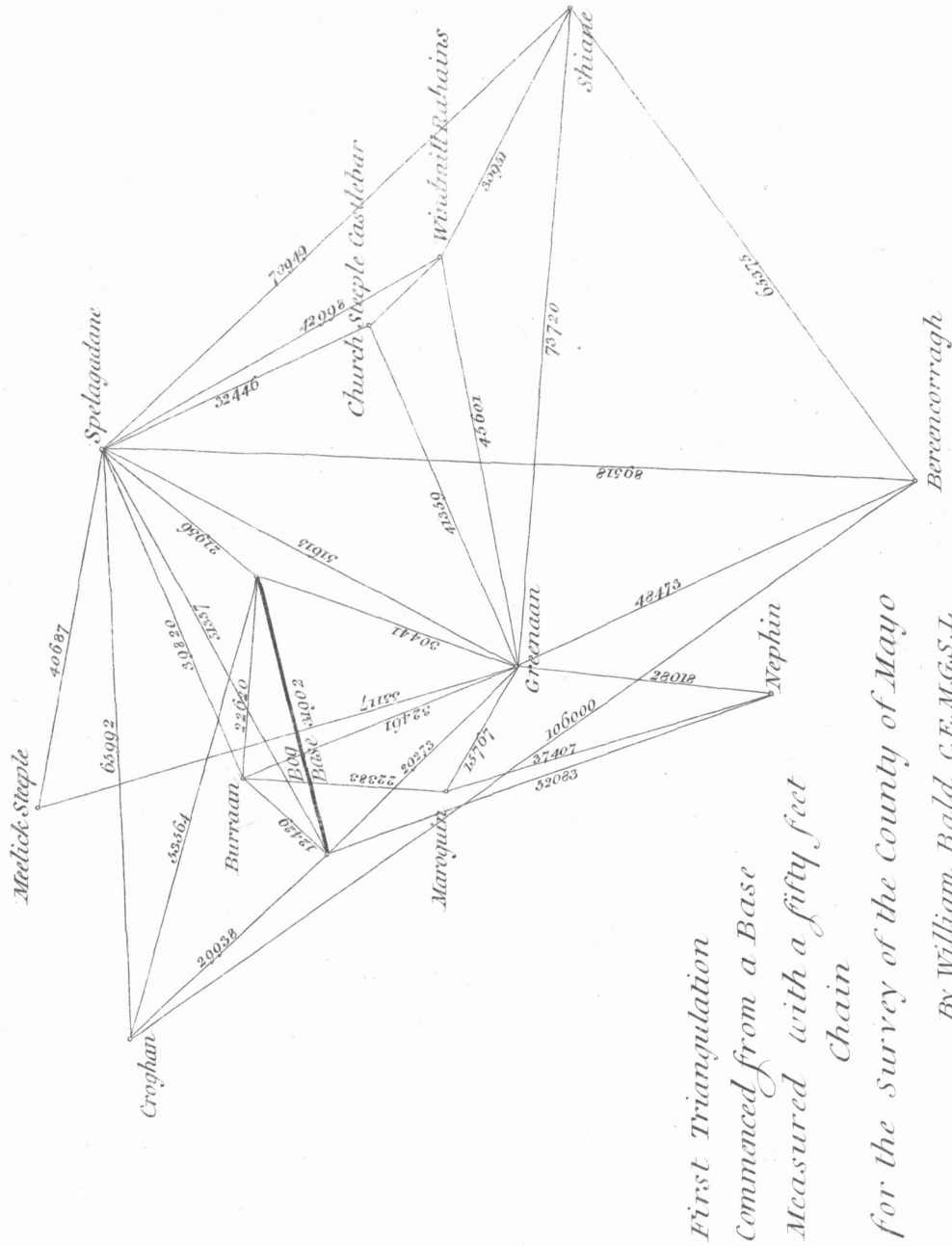
	Feet over the Sea.	
	Barometrically.	Trigonometrically.
MENAN, in Achill Island. From Myles' Monument	...	1512 1530 2290
Birreencorragh, mean of three	...	221
Raithill	...	347
Tarmon-hill	...	2180
Slievemore, mean of three	...	1693, 1700
Currawn	...	2254, 2266
Keem	...	2380, 2367
Curslieve	...	750
Bonmore	...	296
Carrigohara	...	
Burran	...	229
By the Barometer, mean of two Observations	215	
Shraigheen-hill	...	431
Tully	...	125
South station, Ox Mountains	...	1300
North Do. do.	...	1313
Knock Shandrim	426	425
Maumechoy	...	1226
Greenane	...	1278
2d.	...	1261
3d.	...	1280
4th.	1269	
Spinkeen	705	
Sronevoca	928	
Spink	849	
Burran	1211	
2d.	1220	
3d.	1210	
Highest point of Cultivation } in Mayo	819	
Knock-na-Deludy, West top	873	
Do. do. East do.	865	
Barny-na-gee	619	
2d.	612	
Burranbeg	877	
Shiane	377	
2d.	374	
3d.	369	
Devlin	...	862
Drimore	...	220
Slievebohane	...	1262
Spelagadane	...	625
Rahainbar-hill	744	
Knock Raplaghane	749	
Benbuy	698	
Cruoghmore	1397	1412
2d.	1417	1406

Barometrical and trigonometrical heights of the hills and mountains in Mayo.

	Feet over the Sea.	
	Barometrically.	Trigonometrically.
Maroguin	122	
Glen-hill	481	
Gortmore	794	
Aughlasheen	409	
Glencastle-hill	755	
Knocklettacuss	1596	
Trista-hill	429	
Sieve Carn . . . . .	...	829
Mullranageegh . . . . .	...	396
Croghan . . . . .	...	690
Kelgarrow . . . . .	...	650
Mulaghanoe . . . . .	...	744
Bockagh . . . . .	...	702
Brusnagh . . . . .	...	622
Cappagh . . . . .	...	474
Knock . . . . .	...	385
Farnaan . . . . .	...	377
Kiltulla . . . . .	...	415
Farm-hill . . . . .	...	307
Greenwood . . . . .	...	387
Carn Mask . . . . .	...	184
Kellroe . . . . .	...	262
Benleva (East Carn) County Galway . . . . .	...	1225
The Barometers used were those of Sir Henry Englefield.		

NOTE.

In determining the heights barometrically two barometers were used, one remained stationary at a given point, where observations were made at given intervals of time, and the other carried up over the hills and mountain ridges, where corresponding ones were taken. From the number of elevations I have been enabled to execute a model of the Barony of Morrisk, which contains one hundred and eighteen square miles of the most elevated part of Mayo, and another of the Island of Achill, the largest island on the coast of Ireland, containing thirty-six square miles of very lofty ground. The Model of Morrisk is seven feet six inches by five feet. Achill model is five feet three inches by three feet ten inches; they represent all the roads, lakes, rivers, rising grounds, hills, mountains, houses, villages, towns, &c. &c. &c.—The horizontal and perpendicular scales of the models are five inches to the Irish mile.—It is to be regretted, when the great survey of England was begun, that the country had not been modelled as the survey advanced, whereby the whole elevations of England should have been correctly determined for the construction of the Model, and the heights engraven on the maps published by the Board of Ordnance would then have added considerably to their merit. A model on a scale of four inches to the mile of Great Britain and Ireland with their numerous isles, the long, broken, indented outline of coast, the lofty extensive ranges of mountains in Wales, Scotland, Ireland, and the islands, would give a character and expression to this work of art which could not be surpassed.



*First Triangulation
Commenced from a Base
Measured with a fifty feet
Chain*

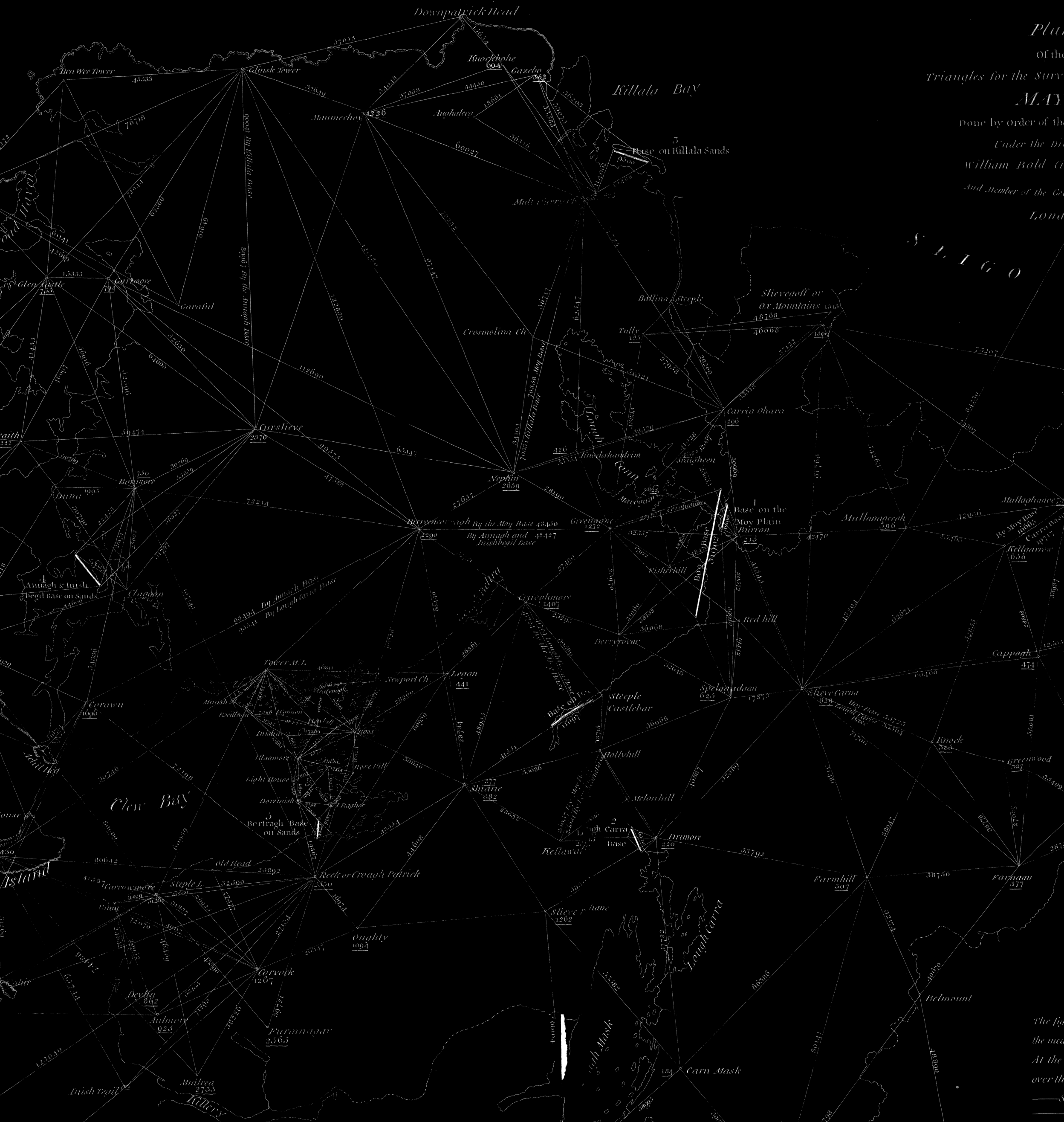
for the Survey of the County of Mayo

By William Bald C.E.M.G.S.I.

Plan

Of the

London



Plan
of the
Triangles for the Survey
MADE
done by Order of the
Under the Direction of
William Bald
And Member of the Geographical Society
London

S. L. G. O.

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Plan
Of the
Triangles for the Survey of the County of
MAYO

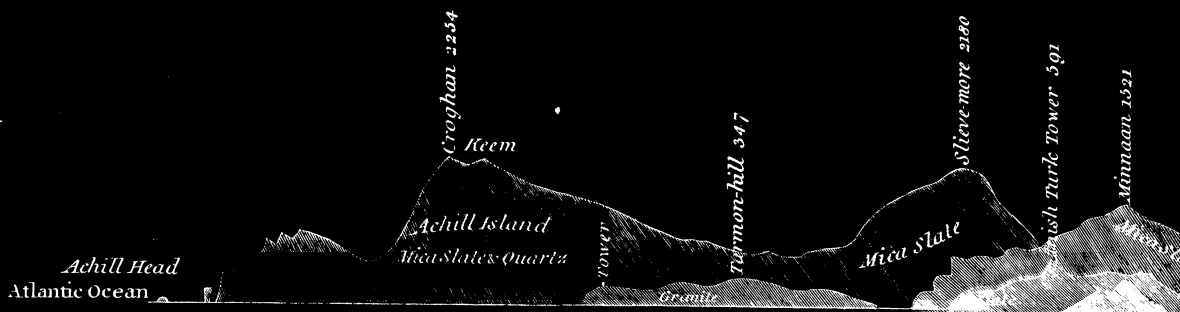
done by order of the Grand Jury

London:





J. Taylor Sculptor North Strand.



Croghan 2254

Keem

Achill Island
Mica Slates Quartz

Tower

Granitic

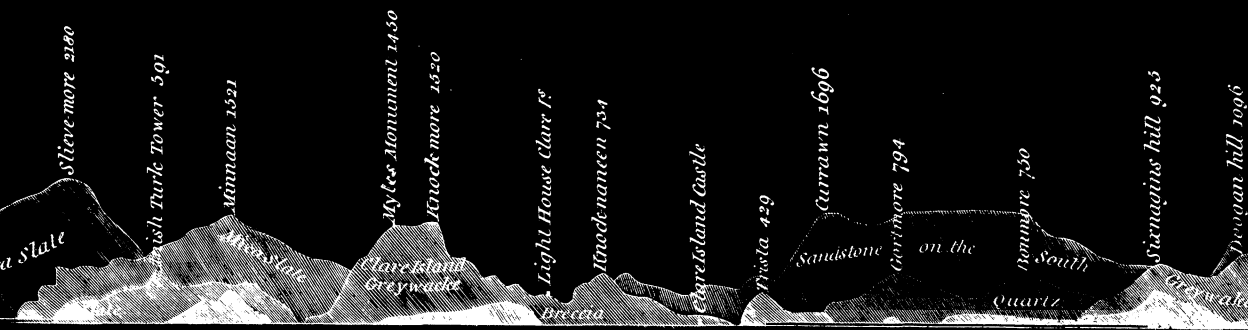
Turmon-hill 347

Mica Slate

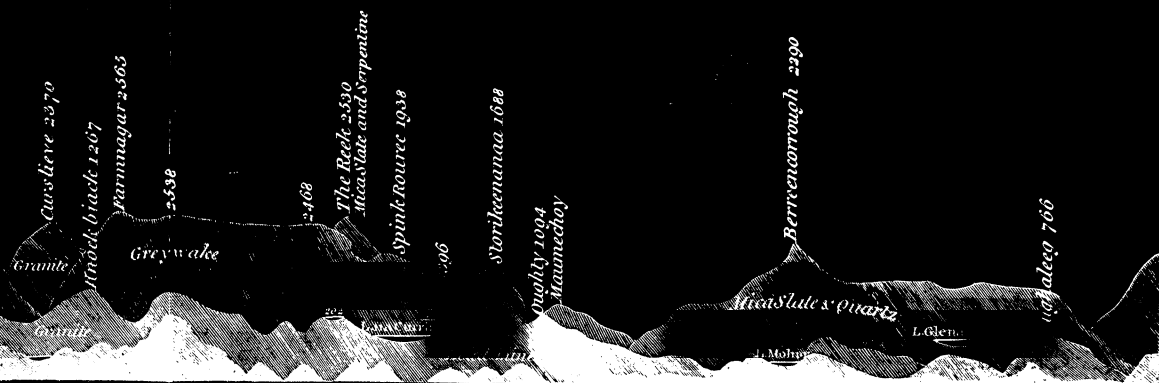
Slieve more 2160

Fish Turle Tower 591

Minna 1321



[illegible]



General Section
 Of the Mountains of the County of
 Between Longitudes $8^{\circ}19'$ and
 And Latitudes $55^{\circ}28'35''$ and
 By William Bald C.
 And of the



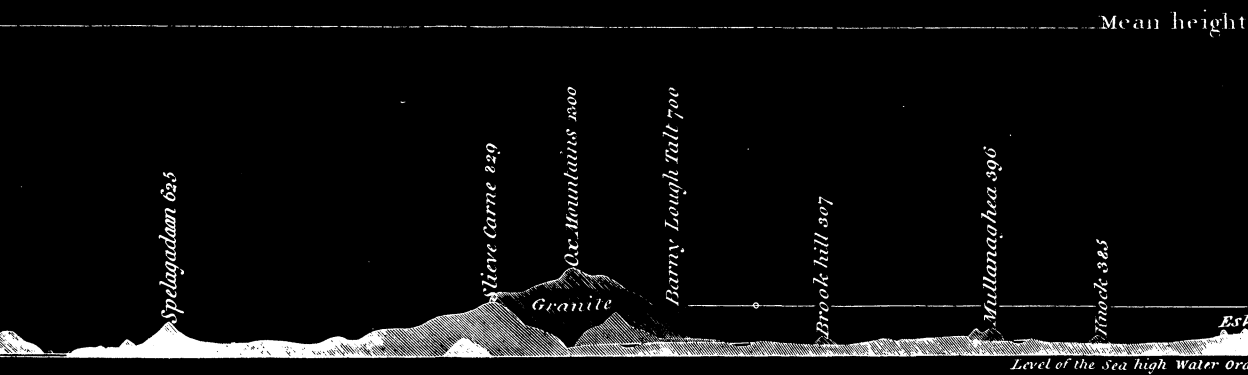
General Section

Mountains of the County of Mayo,

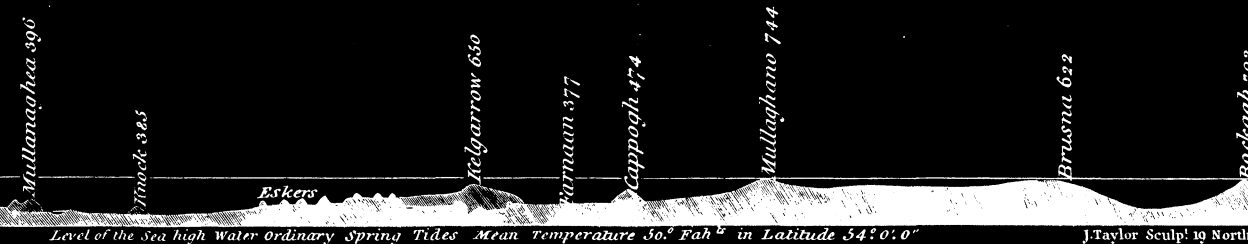
between Longitudes $8^{\circ}19'$ and $10^{\circ}50'$

and Latitudes $55^{\circ}28'35''$ and $54^{\circ}20'29''$

By William Bald Civil Engineer M.R.I.A.
And of the Geological Society of
London.



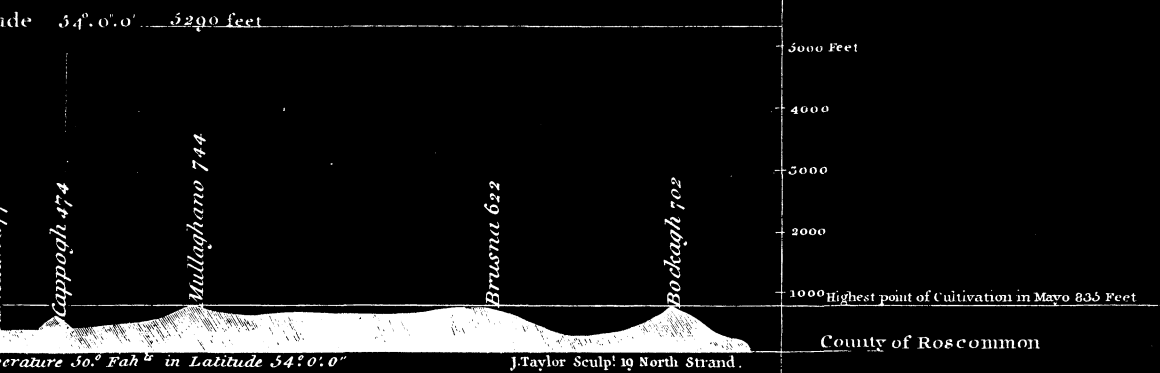
Mean height of Congelation in Latitude 34°.0'.0" 5200 feet



Level of the Sea high Water ordinary Spring Tides Mean Temperature 30.° Fah^o in Latitude 34°.0'.0"

J. Taylor Sculp^t 19 North

PL. III.



*PLAN of the Chain used in
measuring the bases for the Trigonometrical Survey
of
MAYO*

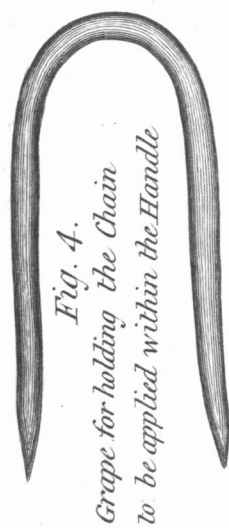


Fig. 4.

*Grape for holding the Chain
to be applied within the Handle*

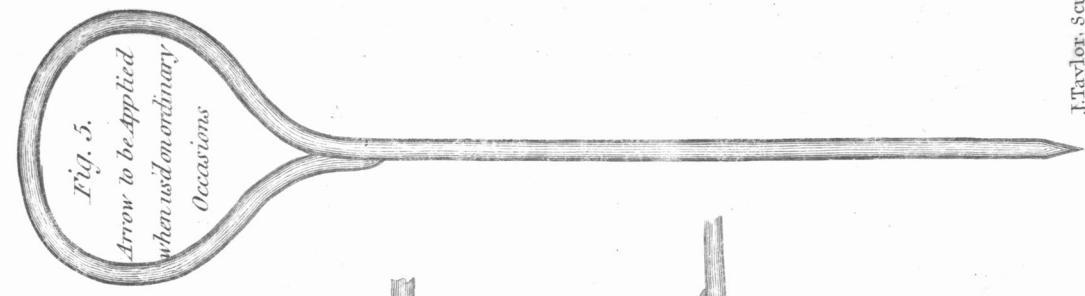


Fig. 5.

*Arrow to be Applied
when used on ordinary
Occasions*

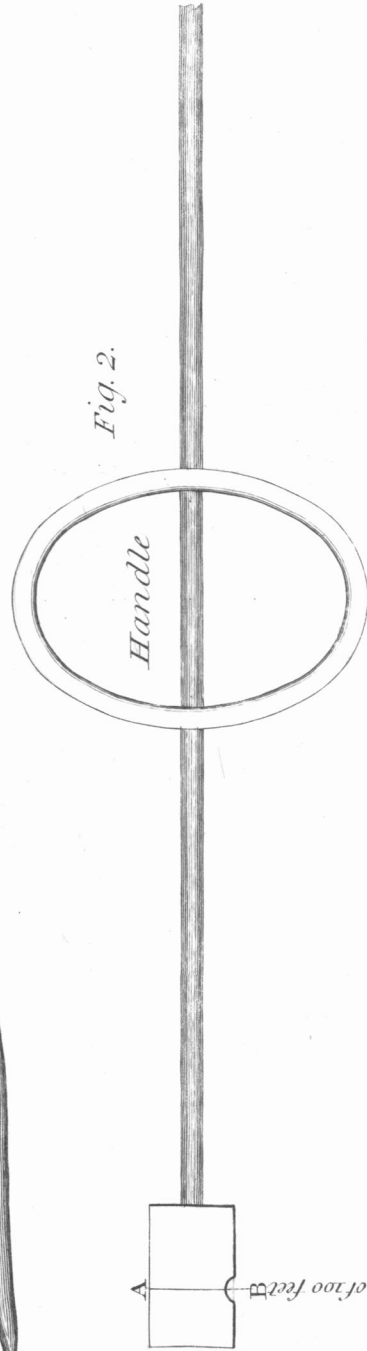


Fig. 2.

Handle

Terminating line of 100 feet

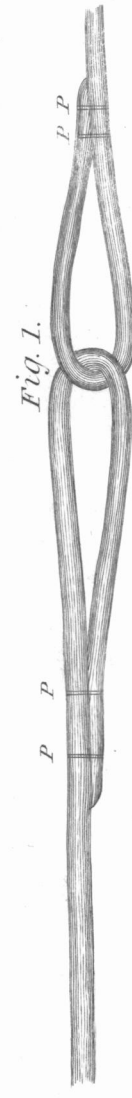
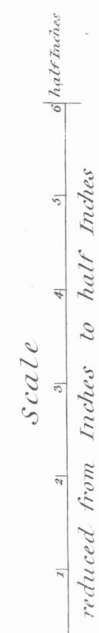
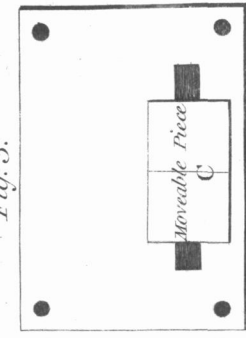


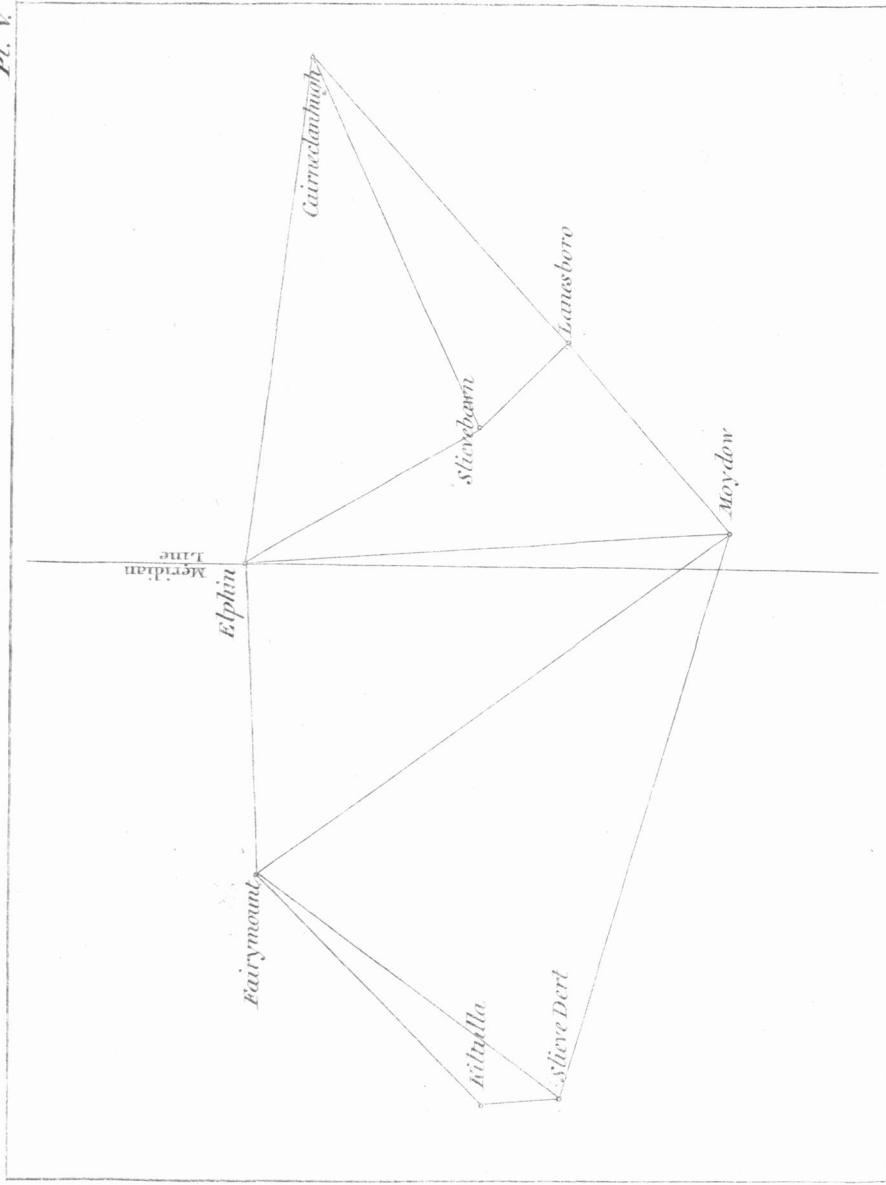
Fig. 1.

Junction of Links

Fig. 3.



*to be applied to the end of the Chain
when measuring by lines of Coincidence*



DESCRIPTION OF PLATE IV.

The chain used in measuring the bases is one hundred feet long, consisting of twenty links of hard round iron, one quarter of an inch in diameter, which are simply hooked together by folding down the extremities of the bar, and pinning them to the body, as represented in Fig. I. PP.

Fig. 2. Represents the handles or extreme links, with the terminating point marked by a line AB drawn on a square piece of brass affixed to the link, and having also a notch B into which the pin Fig. 5 could be placed upon occasions when great accuracy was not required.

Fig. 3. The mark for each length of the chain, being a square plate of brass, with four spikes or prongs beneath to hold it firm on timber, ice, or on the ground, with a moveable piece C, which slides along a groove, so as to coincide with the terminating line A B in Fig. 2.

Fig. 4. A staple or grape to be pushed down into the ground over the handle, Fig. 2. to keep the chain steady while the adjustment is made.